

Lisa Selkirk Town Meeting comment on Article 30: The anti-pipeline resolution  
20 May 2015

My name is Lisa Selkirk, precinct 9. I'm one of the co-petitioners for the anti-pipeline resolution.

In my comment here I want to provide two reasons, based on the current regional context in our own Pioneer Valley, for thinking it would be politically effective for Amherst Town Meeting to take a vote against the Tennessee Gas pipeline.

I. First, by voting against the pipeline Amherst can make common cause with other towns in Hampshire and Franklin Counties who have already voted against the pipeline. These anti-pipeline towns include:

**PUT UP OVERHEAD ONE** [see page 3]

**In Hampshire County:**

Pelham\*, Northampton\*, Chesterfield, Worthington, Cummington, *Plainfield*

**In Franklin County:**

Leverett\*, Sunderland\*, Greenfield\*, *Deerfield\**, *Montague\**, *Gill\**, *Northfield\**, *Warwick\**, Orange\*, Wendell\*, *Conway*, *Ashfield*, Shelburne, Buckland

Towns written in italics are on the currently proposed route for the pipeline.

Towns with an asterisk are in Senator Rosenberg's legislative district. These are the towns which Amherst can join in exerting pressure on *our* state senator to oppose the pipeline.

II. The second point is that by voting against the Tennessee Gas pipeline Amherst can make common cause with other towns in our area who have also been subjected to the Berkshire Gas moratorium.

**PUT UP OVERHEAD TWO** [see page 4]

i. Berkshire Gas has imposed a natural gas moratorium on eight (8) towns in Hampshire and Franklin Counties: Greenfield, Deerfield, Montague, Sunderland, Whately, Hatfield, Hadley and Amherst.

[In their press release of Mar 27, Berkshire Gas stated that the moratorium will remain in effect until the Tennessee Gas pipeline is permitted & built, at the earliest Nov. 2018]

ii. OF the eight (8) natural gas moratorium towns, four (4) have already voted *against* the pipeline: Greenfield, Deerfield, and Montague (in Summer 2014); and Sunderland (on April 24, 2015--*after* the imposition of the moratorium). A vote against the pipeline by Amherst would lend important strength to opposition to the moratorium.

I finish by asking you to consider 3 questions regarding the Berkshire Gas moratorium, the last question to be decided tonight by Amherst Town Meeting.

The first question is:

**Is a natural gas moratorium truly needed? Evidence suggests that it isn't. [I refer you in this connection to the information on Berkshire Gas activity that is collected in a letter from my colleague Rudy Perkins sent to Town Manager Musante and Select Board Chair Brewer on April 23.]**

My next question is:

**In this context, shouldn't Amherst join with the other moratorium towns and try to negotiate alternative solutions to any real current problems in natural gas supply?**

And the third question is:

**Shouldn't Amherst join the other anti-pipeline moratorium towns in sending a message to Berkshire Gas, our public utility, that it opposes construction of the Tennessee Gas pipeline and any other such longterm natural gas infrastructure?**

I leave for your consideration an overhead image of the moratorium ultimatum that was published by Berkshire Gas in the Hampshire Gazette to my knowledge at least twice in the last two weeks. The moratorium towns, with which Amherst could make common cause, are highlighted in red.

**PUT UP OVERHEAD THREE** [see page ]

**THANK YOU!**

**OVERHEAD ONE:**

**Other Towns in Hampshire and Franklin Counties  
which have voted to oppose  
the Kinder-Morgan/Tennessee Gas pipeline**

**Hampshire County**

**Pelham\*, Northampton\*, Chesterfield, Worthington,  
Cummington, *Plainfield***

**Franklin County**

**Leverett\*, Sunderland\*, Greenfield\*, *Deerfield\*,  
Montague\*, Gill\*, Northfield\*, Warwick\*, Orange\*,  
Wendell\*, Conway, Ashfield, Shelburne, Buckland***

**[Towns written in italics are on the currently proposed route for  
the TGP pipeline.]**

**[Towns with an asterisk are in Senator Rosenberg's legislative  
district. These are the towns which Amherst can join in exerting  
pressure on our state senator to oppose the TGP pipeline.]**

**OVERHEAD TWO**

**Other Towns in Hampshire and Franklin Counties  
where Berkshire Gas has imposed its  
natural gas moratorium**

**i. Berkshire Gas has imposed a natural gas moratorium  
on eight (8) towns in Hampshire and Franklin Counties:**

**Greenfield, Deerfield, Montague, Sunderland, Whately,  
Hatfield, Hadley and Amherst.**

**ii. Of the eight (8) natural gas moratorium towns, four (4)  
have already voted against the pipeline:**

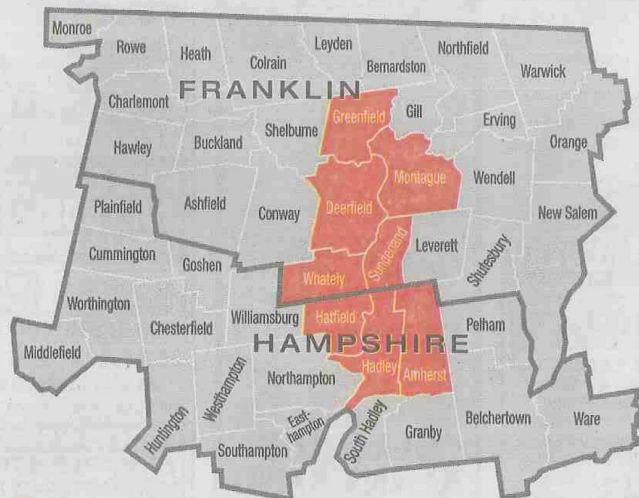
**Greenfield , Deerfield, Montague (Summer 2014);  
Sunderland (April 24, 2015--*after* the imposition of the  
moratorium)**

**Three questions, the last to be answered by Town Meeting:**

- **Is a moratorium truly needed? (Evidence suggests it isn't.)**
- **Shouldn't Amherst join with the other moratorium towns to  
negotiate alternative solutions to any real current problems in  
natural gas supply?**
- **Shouldn't Amherst tell its "public utility" that it opposes the  
construction of the TGP pipeline?**

**OVERHEAD THREE**

# What the Natural Gas Moratorium Means to You



■ Natural Gas Unavailable Due to Moratorium

## For New Customers

No new residential, commercial or industrial natural gas customers can be accepted until further notice. If you are currently under construction assuming you will be able to connect to natural gas, please call us immediately at **1-800-292-5012**.

## For Existing Customers

Berkshire Gas will continue to supply all of its existing customers up to their current usage levels. Existing customers will not be able to increase their use of natural gas by adding new equipment. If you are planning any change to your current natural gas appliances, please call us immediately at **1-800-292-5012**.

## For Plumbing and Heating Contractors

No new customers or additional load for existing customers will be allowed regardless of building permits. Some equipment changes with the same or less than the current load may be allowed, please contact Gabe Josephs at 413-445-0211 for details.

## How Long will the Moratorium Remain in Effect?

The moratorium will remain in effect until additional pipeline capacity is available. Currently, the only proposed project that would provide additional pipeline capacity to the Berkshire Gas service area is the Kinder Morgan Northeast Expansion Project. If this project is approved soon, it could be completed by late 2018, at which time the local moratorium would be lifted.

## Why the Natural Gas Moratorium Has Been Invoked

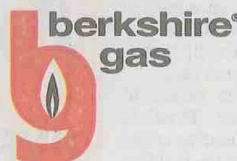
Increased demand for natural gas, without any new pipeline capacity to deliver additional supplies to the region, has created a difficult situation for the energy industry and energy consumers alike.

Our customers in Franklin and Hampshire Counties are served by a pipeline that runs from the Tennessee Gas interstate delivery pipeline in Southwick, Massachusetts to Greenfield, where it ends.

Berkshire Gas has worked proactively over the years on a series of projects to increase our ability to deliver increased volumes of natural gas along this line.

Pipeline capacity, however, has its limits and we have reached full capacity on this delivery pipeline. This has made it necessary to invoke a moratorium on any new, or additional, natural gas service in the region in order to ensure continued safe and reliable service to our existing customers. This moratorium will have to remain in place until such time as new interstate pipeline capacity is built.

**For more information call 800-292-5012 or visit [berkshiregas.com](http://berkshiregas.com) and select Usage and Safety, then Natural Gas Availability.**



**A UIL HOLDINGS COMPANY**

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